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## **South Carolina Energy Office Awarded Grant to Increase Solar Installations**

(Columbia) -- The South Carolina Energy Office has been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to receive a grant of \$46,000 under the federal Million Solar Roofs Initiative (MSRI) program. The grant will be used to stimulate the growth of solar water heating and other solar installations in South Carolina.

Specific objectives for South Carolina's new MSRI grant include:

- Development of a South Carolina Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society;
- Creation and execution of an education and marketing program to increase the knowledge and acceptance of solar technologies in South Carolina; and
- Determination of means to finance solar systems.

This is the second MSRI grant received by the South Carolina Energy Office. Last summer, the South Carolina Energy Office completed an MSRI Implementation Plan to address means through which South Carolina will achieve its goal of 500 or more solar systems installed by 2010. The implementation plan identified key barriers that the solar industry faces in South Carolina, and created a methodology for overcoming the barriers.

Increasing the use of solar technology has the potential to have a wide variety of benefits for South Carolina. Some of those benefits include offsetting the pollution associated with electricity produced from fossil fuels, reducing energy costs and increasing the level of energy emergency preparedness.

For more information on the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, contact D'Juana Wilson of the South Carolina Energy Office at (803) 737-8030, or go to the South Carolina Energy Office web site at [www.energy.sc.gov](http://www.energy.sc.gov) and click on Sustainability and Renewable Energy, then SC Million Solar Roofs Initiative.

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